

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An airbag device comprising an inflator for generating gas, an airbag being expandable by gas generated in the inflator, an airbag cover for covering the airbag, and a base plate for fixing the airbag and the airbag cover thereto, wherein the airbag cover is openable outward at the time of expansion of the airbag caused by gas from the inflator, wherein the airbag cover has a plurality of open pieces for forming openings by tear lines and so forth at the time of expansion of the airbag, and the open pieces are fixed to a plurality of plastic deformable attachment parts which are provided on the base plate and the open pieces are completely separated and opened outward owing to the expansion of the airbag.

2. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 1, wherein the airbag cover has a fixed part fixed directly or indirectly to the base plate substantially at a central portion thereof.

3. (currently amended): An airbag device according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the airbag cover has tear lines at the inner face thereof for opening each of the open pieces outward while leaving the fixed part, and the tear lines comprise a tear line having substantially a circular shape

for partitioning the fixed part and each of the open pieces, and a plurality of tear lines extending outward from the tear line having the circular shape in the radial direction thereof.

4. (currently amended): An airbag device according to Claim 1~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the fixed part of the airbag cover is provided with a decorative member and so forth.

5. (currently amended): An airbag device according to Claim 1~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein attachment parts are disposed along the peripheral edge of the base plate.

6. (original): An airbag device comprising an inflator for generating gas, an airbag being expandable by gas generated in the inflator, an airbag cover for folding the airbag to house the folded airbag therein and openable at the time of expansion of the airbag, a base plate having an opening at a central portion in which the inflator is fitted, and a cushion plate for clamping and holding the airbag between itself and the base plate, wherein the cushion plate has concave parts on its front face for housing a clamping and holding part of a connection member, and a central portion of the airbag cover being opened by tear lines, and so forth at the time of expansion of the airbag is connected to the connection member which is clamped and held by the base plate and the cushion plate together with the airbag, and the connection member holds the central portion of the airbag cover at the time of spread of the airbag bag when the airbag is expanded forward by gas from the inflator while getting across the central portion of the airbag cover.

7. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 6, wherein the connection member has holes or recesses, and the concave parts of the cushion plate have protrusions capable of engaging with the holes or the recesses.

8. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 6, wherein the connection member is fastened and fixed to the concave parts of the cushion plate together by a bolt for fixing the inflator.

9. (currently amended): An airbag device according to Claim 6 ~~any of Claims 6 to 8~~, wherein the connection part is made of a metal member.

10. (original): An airbag device comprising an inflator for generating gas, an airbag being expandable by gas generated in the inflator, an airbag cover for covering the airbag, and a base plate for fixing the airbag and the airbag cover, wherein the airbag cover is openable outward at the time of expansion of the airbag caused by gas from the inflator, wherein the airbag cover has a fixed part fixed directly or indirectly to the base plate substantially at a central portion thereof, and a plurality of open pieces formed around the fixed part, and the airbag has a cylindrical part which is restrained from being come out by the fixed part at the time of expansion of the airbag so as to be expandable forward across the fixed part, and the fixed part of the airbag cover has a concave part for guiding the airbag at the time of spread of the airbag.

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11. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 10, wherein a group of tear lines for partitioning a plurality of open pieces formed at and around the fixed part are provided on the inner face of the airbag cover, and the open pieces are openable outward by the tear lines at the time of spread of the airbag.

12. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 11, wherein the tear lines are formed as grooves provided on the inner face of the airbag cover, and the tear line formed around the fixed part has parts which are cut beforehand.

13. (currently amended): An airbag device according to Claim 10~~any of Claims 10 to 12~~, wherein a plurality of open pieces of the airbag cover are openable outward around the fixed part, and separated from one another after the spread of the airbag.

14. (currently amended): An airbag device according to Claim 10~~any of Claims 10 to 13~~, wherein in that a decorative member or a horn equipment is housed in the concave part.

15. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 14, wherein the decorative member covers the cut parts of the tear lines formed around the concave parts of the airbag cover not to be visible from outside.

16. (original): An airbag device comprising an inflator for generating gas, an airbag being expandable by gas generated in the inflator, an airbag cover for covering the airbag, and a fixed plate for fixing the airbag cover, wherein the airbag has an opening hole part formed on a part thereof by aligning at least two pieces of base cloths with each other, each piece of base cloth having at least hole parts displaced in position, while the airbag cover has a concave part fixed directly or indirectly to the base plate substantially at a central portion thereof, and the concave part guides respective hole parts of the opening hole part, causing the airbag to be expanded.

17. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 16, wherein the concave part is separated by the tear lines formed around or inside the concave part at the time of spread of the airbag.

18. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 16, wherein the concave part is connected to the airbag cover by at least one linking part which is separable with ease.

19. (currently amended): An airbag device according to Claim 16~~any of Claims 16 to 18~~, wherein the airbag cover has a rib for causing the holes of a closable part to be held in a state to be always aligned with each other when the airbag is housed in the airbag cover.

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20. (original): An airbag device according to Claim 19, wherein the rib is disposed by plural number, the ribs have substantially the same shape as the concave parts and are disposed circumferentially.

21. (currently amended): An airbag device according to Claim 16~~any of Claims 16 to 20~~, wherein a decorative member or a horn equipment is housed in the concave part.